

**Andrew Jackson to Rachel Donelson Jackson, February 22, 1813, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson.
Edited by John Spencer Bassett.**

TO MRS. JACKSON.

Near Washington, M. T. ("4 Miles from Natchez ") February 22, 1813.

My Love . On my approach near Natchez, on the night of the 15th Instant I wrote you, It was then uncertain whether I should disembark my troops at Natchez or proceed on to Neworleans, on the morning of the 16th. I took a small craft and went down to Natchez, where I recd. advices that determined me to disembark my troops, and form an encampment near Natchez. on the morning of the 17th. I marched my troops to cantonment Washington, where I formed a Junction with Colo Coffee's Regiment, who had reached that place on the preceding evening, and found them all in good health and spirits. I am forming an encampment on a beautiful plain, that affords a prospect of health a supply of wood and water about four miles from Natchez. how long I may remain at this point I cannot tell. This will entirely depend upon the appearance of an enemy, and the probable point of attack. any letters you may write me direct them to Natchez. Should I leave the neighbourhood before the[y] reach me the[y] will be forwarded after me. All my Detachment, are now with me, and hea[l]th with a few exceptions prevades the whole. I am happy to have such orderly men. they are easily commanded improve in discipline, and if we should meet an enemy I have no doubt will support the honor of the state to which they belong. We have no news here of an enemy. But, my heart bleeds, for the disaster that has lately befel Genl Winchester in the North West. If true; what an ocean of blood, from the chocest viens of the Western sons has been spilt. It appears that fate has

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destined our best heroes to perish in those deserts, or can these misfortunes arise, from want of Judgt. incaution, or is it from a fixed destiny of heaven.

I regret exceedingly the fate of Genl Winchester.¹ had he fallen bravely as he did fall, with victory on his side I should have rejoiced. But fall even bravely in defeat always in an ungratefull world leaves stains and stings behind. Such brave and good men as him deserved a better fate. I am anxiously to hear from you and my sweet little Andrew, Capt Butlers letter advised me you were both well. May heaven grant a continuation of that blessing on you both untill I return.

1 Brig.-Gen. James Winchester was defeated and captured at the battle of Frenchtown, Jan. 22, 1813. He lived in Tennessee and was a brigadier-general of militia in Jackson's division. He was in captivity until 1814 when he was exchanged and assigned to duty under Jackson, who entrusted to him the defense of Mobile.

I would be glad to hear how my overseer conducts, whether he has come up to his contract and whether he has complied with his promise in his attention to you. Colo. Purdy and Mrs Purdy desires their compliments to you they will set out to Nashville in a few days. please say to Colo. Ward and Mr Sanders, that I will write them as soon as I can obtain sufficient information of the marketts, to Justify me. corn now selling at five bits pr bushel. good sifted meal, for from 75 cents to a dollars, but no contract can be made for a large quantity. But it is my oppinion that meal will be in May an excellent price, and also corn.

Make my compliments to Colo Hays and family Capt Butler and Rachel, to Patsey and tell her William is in good health, and to all friends, tell Peggy howde for me, and kiss Andrew, and believe me to be your affectionate husband.